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Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

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House Subcommittee Cuts to NASA Would Hit Goddard Hard

Potentially 45% of the proposed \$849 million cut in NASA's science and technology budget resulting from recent action by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on VA-HUD and Independent Agencies could be taken from the Goddard Space Flight Center, (Greenbelt and Wallops).

As the Agency's center of excellence for scientific research, NASA's lead center for the Earth Science Enterprise, and a world-class technology center, Goddard's FY 2000 budget could be slashed by over \$400 million, possibly leading to cancellations of contracts and layoffs for thousands of aerospace workers.

"We are extremely concerned with the direction of this budget," said Goddard Director, Al Diaz. "The subcommittee budget would dismantle significant portions of the world's preeminent space and earth science research programs and slash future technology investments that are vital to ensuring the economic health and prosperity of the nation."

The House subcommittee passed a funding bill on July 26 that cuts NASA's budget about 10% below the President's request for FY 2000. Of the \$1.325 billion reduction the House made in the President's budget, more than 60% was taken from NASA's science and future technology accounts.

Under the subcommittee plan, Goddard's science and technology projects would be dramatically cut. Goddard's Space Science budget could be reduced by approximately \$230 million, which is 36% of the reduction to NASA's space science account. Goddard's Earth Science budget would be reduced about \$175 million, which is 61% of the reduction to the Agency's earth science account.

"We have done some preliminary estimates on the economic impact of this cut and it appears we could lose in excess of 2000 jobs," said Bill Townsend, Goddard's deputy director. He added that half of those job cuts would likely be in the local areas around Greenbelt and Wallops.

"Most troubling is the long term impact," Townsend said. "When we examined the long-term effects of canceling projects and the drastic reductions being called for in future work, it appears Goddard could lose nearly \$3 billion over the next 5 years."

Townsend said more than one-half of Goddard's current \$2.3 billion budget is spent close to home - in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. About 8,500 people work at Goddard

(Greenbelt and Wallops). "If these cuts stand, the region stands to lose close to a billion and a half dollars over the next five years."

"The NASA Administrator noted the subcommittee's budget is particularly harsh on future technology and science programs," said Townsend. "This budget signals an abdication of leadership in future science and technology programs. A lot of Goddard's future work, specifically future Explorer missions, Earth probes and follow-on missions to study the health of the planet, are cancelled or drastically cut. This will have devastating consequences at Goddard and Wallops, and the loss of private sector jobs in local communities and around the country."

Townsend said the consequences of this budget on America's university and private sector research programs will be extraordinarily painful and far-reaching. "University research will be decimated. It's entirely foreseeable that this budget will cut off opportunities for the engineers, technologists and earth and space scientists of the future, losing a generation of researchers that would have taken space exploration and development of cutting edge technologies into the next millennium."



House to Take Up NASA Funding Bill in September

When the House of Representatives returns from its August recess, one of its early actions will be to take up H.R. 2684, the FY 2000 appropriations bill for VA-HUD and Independent Agencies, the bill which funds NASA.

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee passed a bill that proposes to reduce NASA funding by \$924.6 million from the President's \$13.578 request for NASA. On July 26, an appropriations subcommittee had slashed the NASA funding request by \$1.325 billion, but the full appropriations committee added \$400 million to VA-HUD bill. While this is certainly good news, the added funds did not dramatically improve Goddard's budget picture. For more on this story, check out: <http://pao.gsfc.nasa.gov/gsfsc/gnews/080699/080699.htm#budget>

Students Preparing, Launching Experiments at NASA Wallops

High school students from Maryland and Virginia launched experiments on a NASA suborbital rocket and prepared experiments for flight on the Space Shuttle during Flight Opportunity Week, Aug. 2 - 6, at Wallops Flight Facility.

The students participating in the launch of a suborbital sounding rocket Aug. 5 also were involved in final vehicle preparation and presented preliminary data analysis to NASA officials.

Students preparing experiments for the Space Shuttle worked with NASA personnel in integrating their experiments for flight, viewed the suborbital rocket flight and participated in microgravity educational activities.

Four experiments flew on the single-stage Orion suborbital sounding rocket flight, Aug. 5, to an altitude of 26 miles (41.9 kilometers). The payload impacted in the Atlantic Ocean approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers) off the coast of Wallops Island. The U.S. Coast Guard, Chincoteague, Va., recovered the payload and the experiments were returned to the students the same day.

Two of the experiments were designed by students from Parkside High School, Salisbury, Md., and sponsored by NASA. One experiment measured radiation in the atmosphere and the other was designed to provide data for measuring spin-rate of the rocket. A secondary experiment of various seeds was flown for the Parkside students to use in programs with neighboring elementary schools.

The other two suborbital experiments were designed by students from Fort Defiance and Harrisonburg High Schools through a program with James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., and were sponsored by the Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, Norfolk, Va. The first experiment used student-fabricated solar cells to measure solar variances and determine rocket roll rate. The second was designed to measure various flight parameters including pressure and acceleration.

Parkside students also prepared and integrated three experiments for flight on a future Space Shuttle. These experiments include measuring radiation and electronic signals in space and flying a variety of plant seeds that will be used in programs with local elementary and middle school students.

Flight Opportunities Week is a joint effort between the Goddard Space Flight Center and the Offices of Human Resources and Education, Space Science and Space Flight at NASA Headquarters.

Wallops Shorts.....
Fire Department

Wallops Fire Department personnel responded to a mutual aid request by the Chincoteague 911 to assist the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Department in answering multiple calls for medical assistance on Aug. 1.

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Lynn Lake, Canada on Aug. 1. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a cosmic and helio-spheric physics experiment. Jonathan Ormes, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center was the principal investigator. The flight terminated within minutes of achieving float altitude.

Sounding Rocket Launch

A NASA Orion sounding rocket was successfully launched from Wallops Island on Aug. 5. This mission was the second flight of the Suborbital Student Experiment Module, a Wallops educational outreach program providing high school students with space flight opportunities. The payload consisted of four student developed experiments.

Parkside High School students provided (Deck 1) an experiment to measure the vehicle roll rate and (Deck 2) an experiment to measure various types of radiation. James Madison University with Fort Defiance and Harrisonburg High Schools provided (Deck 3) an experiment to determine the roll rate and attitude and (Deck 4) an experiment to measure the 3-axis acceleration. The payload was successfully recovered.

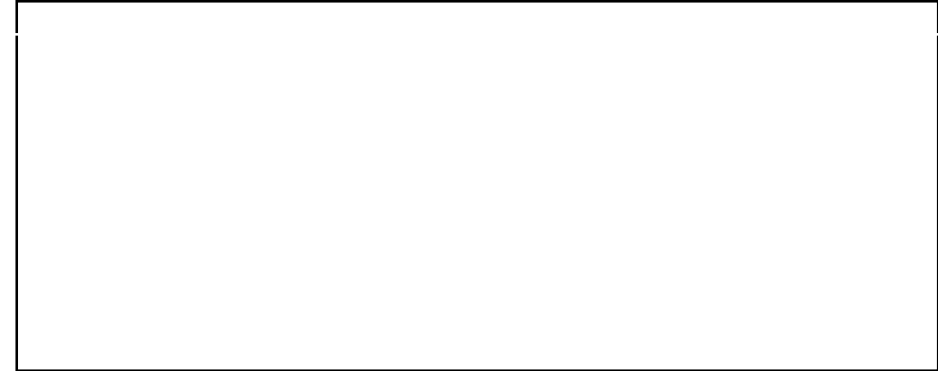


Students deintegrate the payload following launch and recovery of the single stage Orion rocket on Aug. 5. PAO digital photo.

**Have a Heart
Donate Blood**

**Wallops Blood Drive
Blood Bank
of the Eastern Shore**

**August 12
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bldg. F-3**



Fish Fry

**August 13
4:30 p.m.
Building F-3**



FISH
CORN-ON-THE-COB
STRING BEANS
FRENCH FRIES
HUSH PUPPIES
CORN BREAD
SODA
with
MELONS for DESSERT

Where else can you get a home-cooked meal for \$7 in advance or \$8.50 at the door? For those who do not like fish, hot dogs will be available.

Carry out platters will be available. Tickets can be purchased from Rebecca Beach, x1559; Larry Duffy, x1539; Phil Harrison, x2585; Pam Milbourne, x2020; and Audrey Young, x2394 (half-price tickets for children aged 12 and under).

Sponsored by Black History Club, Morale Activities Committee and ACSC Multi-Cultural Association.

**NASA Studies Weather on
Remote Pacific Atoll**

More than 200 experts from NASA, other government agencies, universities and research institutions are on remote Kwajalein Atoll, part of the Republic of Marshall Islands in the tropical Pacific Ocean, conducting experiments to better understand the nature of oceanic rainfall and how it differs from rain over land.

The experiment, called KWAJEX, is part of a bigger NASA Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM), during which scientists throughout the world are gathering detailed weather data on the ground, by airplane, ship and balloon.

Wallops employees **Don Penney and Brian Cunningham, GHG**, will be conducting and obtaining data from daily weather balloon releases.

Researchers will calibrate instruments on board the mission's TRMM satellite and gather detailed weather data the satellite cannot obtain remotely.

Did you know?

Wallops Library services are available to all NASA civil servants and contract employees.

The Library has an exciting and easy to use new homepage on the Internet at: library.gsfc.nasa.gov/wallops.htm

From this page you can:

1. View the **NEW BOOK LIST**
2. Use the **BOOK REQUEST** and **ARTICLE/PAPER REQUEST** forms from your desktop.
3. Access **RESEARCH DATA BASES** by clicking the **Resources Button** and selecting any of the following: Journal Article Search, Electronic Journals, Technical Reports or Local Resources.
4. Research **WEB RESOURCES** on numerous topics including: Space Sciences, Engineering/Technology, Company/Industry Info. and more. Just click on **Reference Button**.
5. Browse the **LIBRARY CATALOG** (book/journal collection).

Check it out and feel free to send comments or send suggestions to: wflib@library.gsfc.nasa.gov or call the Library Reference Desk on x1065.

TeleTechNet Course Offered

The Eastern Shore Community College will be offering a TeleTechNet class for Algebra I at the Navy site, Bldg. R-30. The class is tentatively scheduled to begin Aug. 23 and end Dec. 15. It will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Algebra II will follow.

For further information contact Chief Atkins at 824-2597 or call the college at 787-5925.

FOR SALE: 1916 Yellow Jacket Annual, Randolph-Macon College - \$15; baskets for floral arrangements or gift baskets - \$.25 to \$1.00, Jan Neville, (757) 331-1402.

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